

Appln. No. 09/380,372
Amd. dated June 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2004

REMARKS

The Office Action and the cited and applied reference have been carefully reviewed. Claims 16-18 and 27 are allowed. Claims 6, 8, 16-18 and 27 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 4-9, 16-17 and 21-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 4, 5, 7, 9 and 21-26 and by the amendment of claims 6, 8 and 17 to change their claim dependency and claim 16 to incorporate the method steps recited in canceled claim 5.

Claims 21-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Caplan et al., U.S. Patent 5,486,359. This rejection is made moot by the cancellation without prejudice of rejected claims 21-26.

Claims 5-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Caplan et al. This rejection is also made moot by the cancellation without prejudice of rejected claims 5, 7, and 9 and by the amendment of claims 6 and 8 to change their claim dependency.


In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their

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allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are
earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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